THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) National Policy on Culture, as drafted, is under the consideration of the Government.

Accidents of IAF Fighter Aircrafts

4757. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each of the IAF fighter aircraft accidents, which took place during the years 1994 and 1995;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiries about the causes of these accidents and if so, the details of each enquiry;

(c) the extent of loss suffered by Government on account of each of these accidents and the number of persons killed and injured;

(d) the details of compensation paid to the victims of these accidents;

(e) the details of safety measures Government have so far taken for avoiding such accidents; and

(f) the number of fighter aircraft, which require replacement and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) There were 31 & 25 air accidents during the calendar years 1994 & 1995 respectively. The crashes were of different aircraft in the IAF inventory. It would not be in our security interest to give out type of aircraft lost and the cause of accident in each case. However, each accident has been investigated by a Court of Inquiry. These accidents have taken place mainly due to Technical Failure, Human Error and Bird Strike. The total amount of loss suffered is about Rs. 234 crores. The number of persons killed & injured were 30 & 18 respectively.

(d) A sum of Rs. 4.34 lakhs has been paid to the civilians for damage of their properties/next of kin of the deceased and injured, besides compensation and other benefits paid to the crew members as per rules.

(e) To contain these accidents, air support and attack patterns have been reviewed and the manufacturers are also being closely associated. Steps have also been taken by the Ministries of Agriculture and Urban Affairs & Employment and the concerned State Government for modernisation of slaughter houses/carcass utilisation centres and for sanitation of areas around the bird activity prone airfields to reduce bird activities.

(f) There is no immediate need to replace the aircraft lost due to accidents as the loss of aircraft has been well within the wastage rate forecast at the time of induction.

Higher Education

4758. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken special initiatives for tonning up quality of higher education, particularly for Technical Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to revamp/strengthen the Board of Technical Education; and

(d) total number of proposals received from the Government of Maharashtra, cleared and pending with the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India have set up All India Council for Technical Education under AICTE Act, 1987 with a view to proper planning and coordinated development of the technical education system throughout the country, the promotion of qualitative improvement of such education in relation to planned quantitative growth and the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the technical education system and for matters connected therewith. Accordingly, the Council has laid down norms & standards for courses and curricula for all the technical institutions in the country. The Council permits starting of new technical institutions, new courses and programmes only after ensuring provision of minimum infrastructural and instructional facilities for conduct of courses in order to ensure quality and standard.

(c) The revamping and strengthening of the Board of Technical Education in each State is a matter which falls under the purview of the concerned State Government.

(d) The AICTE received 166 (Engg. & Tech.–108, Management—58) proposals for starting of new Technical & Management Institutions in Maharashtra State by December, 1995 for the year 1996-97. The Council has conveyed approval for starting of 16 Engineering & Technological institutions for the year 1996-97. 20 cases of Management institutions have been recommended by the Task Force for visit after the institutions send a report on compliance of deficiencies. 12 cases of Engineering & Technological institutions are still under consideration of the Council.